

Acknowledgments

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TROX SCABER (COL.) IN EPPING FOREST; AND A HABITAT NOTE.
 — Mr. C. W. Plant (*Ent. Rec.* **97**: 229) may like to know of two further Essex records of this beetle. The late F. D. Buck (1955, *Ent. mon. Mag.* **91**:188) includes it in his list of Epping Forest Coleoptera: a specimen on a beech log at midnight at Loughton Camp by Box (1917, *ibid.* **53**:109), and a second record for the Forest by Sculthorpe (1951, *Proc. S. Lond. ent. nat. Hist. Soc.* 1949/50: 43). It would indeed be strange if this insect living mostly in birds' nests, especially those of owls, etc., in tree holes, had not occurred in so suitable a locality.

I would agree that *T. scaber* appears uncommon, but this, I think, is due to its generally skulking, sluggish and nocturnal habits. By day it must be sought among nest-debris or remnants, preferably where there is damp wood-mould; it may be found in such a place long after the nest is abandoned, provided that some fragments of bones, feathers etc. remain; and when so found, a number may be present. From what has just been said, it is no surprise that owl pellets are a favoured habitat. By night, when on the wing, it is attracted to light. Odd specimens are not seldom met with indoors; I have known a succession of them to be so found, to the alarm of the non-entomological occupant(s). Some of these may have flown to a light, but more often, perhaps, they have fallen down a chimney from a pigeons' nest built therein.

To answer Mr. Plant's query: I know of no evidence of migratory habits in *Trox* spp. It is of interest to note that, in contrast to *T. scaber*, the much rarer *T. sabulosus* L. appears from several records to be a day-flier, and also, not to be a nest species; it frequents old dry carrion in sandy districts. — A. A. ALLEN.